

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a line of through vent apertures to a web component of a plastic bag, said web component having a tendency to tear along lines of apertures, comprising the steps of:

providing a cutter which cuts a line of vent apertures along a first direction, said vent apertures being oriented in a second direction which is not parallel to said first direction such that the orientation of said line of vent apertures with respect to said line minimizes tear propagation of said web component along said line;

providing an anvil means against which said cutter bears, thereby creating a nip; and drawing the web component through said nip formed between said cutter and said anvil means thereby forming said line of vent apertures in the web component;

wherein said vent apertures provide ventilation to the interior of said plastic bag when said web component is attached to said plastic bag.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said teeth are parallel to said axis.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein said teeth are sized as spaced so as to form apertures which allow air to pass therethrough, but which do not allow selected solids to pass therethrough.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said anvil means is a rotating wheel.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said web component is a zipper tape.

Claims 6-10 – (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said cutter is a cutting wheel which rotates about an axis, a periphery of said cutting wheel including teeth which are not perpendicular to said axis.